

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 30-32 are pending in this application. No further amendments to the claims are made herein.

The Office Action indicates that the claims are rejected solely on the basis that the parent patent, US 5, 788,178 is expired. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has granted applicants Petition to Accept Late Payment of Maintenance Fees, see April 9, 2007 Decision granting the Petition.

In the interest of complete disclosure with the Office in this case, Applicants point out that it does not appear that the Decision addressed Applicants request to accept payment of the second maintenance fee, which became payable during the pendency of the Petition. Applicants have contacted the petitions branch and it appears to have been an oversight. A Communication has been forwarded to the attorney in charge of the Petition, Cliff Congo, requesting that the second maintenance fee be accepted as requested in the Request for Reconsideration of the original Petition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or underpayment thereof or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 50-1275.

Early reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview, telephonic or personal, would facilitate allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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